



APPENDIX B

Oracle9i Discoverer Administrator Administration Guide (Online Help)

Version 9.0.2

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Library

Contents

Index

5

Creating and maintaining folders

Creating and maintaining folders

This chapter explains how you create and maintain folders using Discoverer Administrator, and contains the following topics:

"What are folders?"

"What are simple folders?"

"What are complex folders?"

"What are custom folders?"

"About dependencies between folders"

"About sharing folders across business areas"

"How to create simple folders from the database"

"How to create complex folders"

"How to create custom folders"

"How to edit folder properties"

"How to edit a custom folder's SQL statement"

"How to delete folders from a business area"

"How to assign folders to a business area"

"How to assign a folder to multiple business areas"



APPENDIX B

"How to sort folders in a business area"

"How to sort items in a folder"

"How to re-order folders in a business area"

"How to validate folders in a business area"

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What are folders?

A Discoverer folder is a representation of result set data. The visual concept of a folder in Discoverer is analogous to a directory in Windows where folders are the containers and items are the files held in the folders. A Discoverer folder represents a group of related items. Discoverer end users select items from one or more folders to get information from the database. As the Discoverer manager, it is your responsibility to create suitable folders to enable Discoverer end users to access the information they need.

There are three types of folder:

simple folders, which contain items based on columns in a single database table or view

complex folders, which can contain items based on columns from multiple database tables or views

custom folders, which are based on SQL statements

To the Discoverer end user, the type of a particular folder is immaterial. Whether a folder is simple, custom, or complex is only important to the Discoverer manager. Even in Discoverer Administrator, there is very little difference in the behavior of these different types of folders. Folders can include items, calculated items, joins, conditions, item classes, and hierarchies. Items in a folder can be used in summary folders and to define hierarchies.

Discoverer end users work with folders within the context of business areas.

As the Discoverer Manager, you can assign a folder to one or more business areas. Note that a folder has a single definition, regardless of the number of business areas to which you assign it.

You can remove a folder from all business areas without deleting it from the EUL. Folders that exist in the EUL but which are not currently assigned to a business area are referred to as orphan folders.



APPENDIX B

What are simple folders?

Simple folders contain items based on columns in a single database table or view. Items in a simple folder can also represent calculations on other items in the folder.

You create a simple folder by loading a table definition or table metadata from the database or a gateway.

Figure 5-1 How Discoverer Administrator represents a table/view

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Text description of the illustration fdrtbl.gif

What are complex folders?

Complex folders contain items from one or more other folders. Complex folders enable you to create a combined view of data from multiple folders. This is analogous to a view in the database.

Using a complex folder enables you to simplify the business area without creating a new database view. For example, you can create a complex folder called Dept-Emp which has columns from both the DEPT and EMP tables. The user can select from one folder instead of two.

For two items from different folders to belong to the same complex folder, a join condition must exist between the two folders. For more information about joins, see Chapter 10, "What are joins?".

Figure 5-2 How a complex folder groups items from multiple source tables

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What are the benefits of using complex folders instead of database views?

You could produce the same result set using a database view instead of a complex folder.

However, using a complex folder instead of a database view offers several advantages. You can:

create a complex folder without the database privileges required to create a database view

control access to a complex folder using the folder's business area

manage complex folders entirely within Discoverer Administrator, whereas database views can be complicated to maintain.